



## Road Update

January 12 – February 8, 2006 · Issue 58

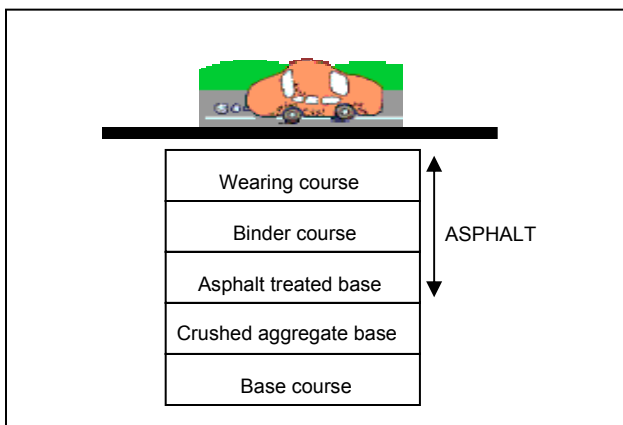
### KANDAHAR-HERAT HIGHWAY

The Kandahar-Herat Highway connects the southern and western parts of Afghanistan. This 557 km stretch of highway is part of the “Ring Road”, which links the main cities of Kabul, Kandahar and Herat. USAID is funding 326 km of the highway, while Saudi Arabia and Japan are each responsible for a 116 km section. USAID is also funding the security, de-mining, design, and construction management of the Saudi Section (Section 2). Japan has recently re-commenced work on Section 1.

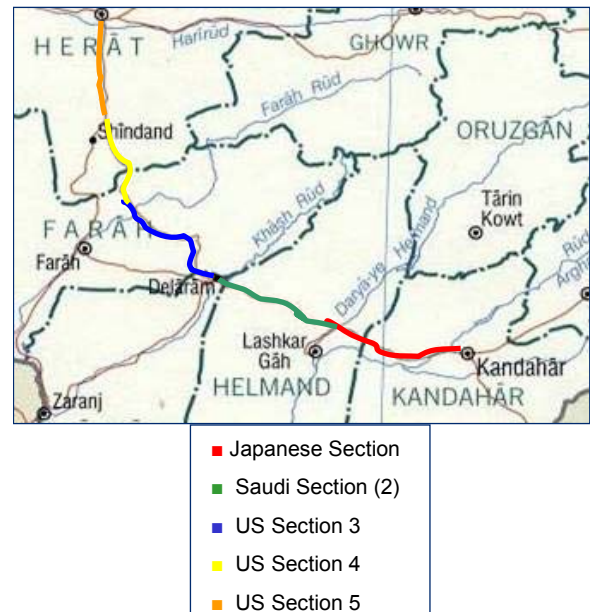
### PROGRESS TO DATE

Demining and mobilizing are nearing completion on Section 2 (Km 116-231), and the design continues. The permanent camp facilities will be occupied in the middle of February. Excavation and embankment works are 11% complete and ongoing. In **Section 3** (Km 231-356), asphalt pavement and all bridge works are complete. Shoulder work continues, pending weather. Some recent damage due to flash flooding is being addressed. In **Section 4** (4A Km 356-406, 4B Km 406-456), asphalt paving is complete. The final bridge is near completion.

### Composition of a Road



### Kandahar-Herat Highway Sections



The main focus continues to be on improving shoulder works and designing the remaining bridge. In **Section 5** (Km 456-557), bridge and culvert works continue, as does shoulder work. The first and second layers of asphalt have 77km completed; and 20% of the wearing course is complete. Three bridges of seven are complete as well. All paving is currently halted due to cold winter weather.

USAID incorporates capacity building, a principal component of development and reconstruction assistance, into road reconstruction efforts in order to increase Afghan participation and commitment. During this period, 73% of the project's employees were Afghan nationals.

### Guide for the Non-Road Engineers: Construction Flow





## Road Update Continued

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### Focus on Urban Roads: Bibi Mahro

Phase 1: North and south-bound lanes are open to two-way traffic on the binder course. The north and south-bound side drains are complete. The median curbing and infill are completed. Driveway culvert and curb work are ongoing in both directions. Both previously closed side roads are now open to public. Street light foundations are being constructed. The wearing course will be completed in the spring when the weather warms. Side drain work is suspended due to concerns of improvised explosive devices on the site.

### PROVINCIAL ROADS HIGHLIGHTS

Security and weather conditions continue to be the biggest threats to work. Much of the work is slowed or stopped due to winter weather.

**Kabul-Gardez Road (125 km)** – Section 1 (Km 3 to 45) and Section 2 (Km 45 to 87) are complete. Snow removal maintenance is on standby to clear the Tera Pass.

**Pul-e Alam to Ring Road (35 km)** – Snow removal maintenance is on standby to clear the road as needed. Much of the workforce is on leave for winter.

**Jalalabad-Asmar Road (124 km)** – Mobilization of security buildings at Km 103 and a crusher plant at Km 66 is ongoing. Culvert installations are ongoing as well as other stone masonry construction. Subgrade, subbase, and base works continue. Rough grading of the entire 124 Km stretch is complete. Daily traffic count is being conducted.



*Crews throw sand and salt on the Kabul-Gardez Road to clear snow for vehicles.*

**Kandahar-Tirin Kot Road (148 km)** – All scheduled work has been completed and is being readied for turnover to Ministry of Public Works.

**Panjshir Road (70 km)** – Section 1: Works on a culvert and retaining wall are ongoing at Km 14+903, 16+595, 18+277 and 18+363. A crusher is producing double bituminous surface treatment (DBST) aggregate. Section 2: Additional crushers continue to produce base course materials. A screening plant is producing sub-base materials. Sub-base has been placed between 16+220 and 16+480. A geological investigation has been completed and a final report will be available in mid-February.

**Farah-Ring Road (70 km)** – Screening and crushing of DBST aggregate is ongoing. Construction of causeways between Km 60+720 and 61+085 is ongoing. Culvert, subgrade, subbase, and base course work is ongoing at various locations. Heavy rainfall is hampering work. Side drain construction continues.

**Lashkar Gah-Ring Road (49 km)** – Section 1 (Km 0 to 43): Crusher has produced a total of 3,306 MT of aggregate materials. Base work is ongoing between Km 39+980 and Km 41+380. DBST could not commence due to cold weather.

**Ghazni-Sharan Road (57.5 km)** – Rough grading is in progress. The generator for the crusher is undergoing repairs in Kabul, thus halting crusher work until repairs are complete. Snow removal plans are in effect.

### Road-Related Security Incidents

Recent violence has escalated across Afghanistan. On January 26<sup>th</sup> in Farah Province, a vehicle convoy with staff working on USAID projects, was traveling near the city limits when it was hit by an improvised explosive device (IED). The windows of the vehicles shattered. It is unknown if the IED was directed at a specifically identified target.

In a separate attack on Tuesday, February 7th, four staff were killed by another IED also in Farah Province. The deceased include two engineers, a security officer, and the driver.

Also on February 7th, protestors moved into the area of the Kabul Compound, a U.S. military base near the American Embassy. Police fired warning shots in the air to disband demonstrators. Windows were broken and the potential for more violence is real. The airport road was closed.